

Hingham Veterans Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Meeting held on July 21, 2020 via Zoom

6:16 Meeting called to order by Veterans Service Officer, Keith Jermyn

Those in attendance: Jay Ippolito, Tom Burbank, Ben Dulieu, Maryanne Blackmur

Those absent: Joe Gragg

Guests: David Sargent, Rob St. John

Pledge of Allegiance: Keith Jermyn

Motion to approve previous minutes: 11/2019; 02/2020; 06/2020

Jay Ippolito – correction of spelling of name

Motion to approve all minutes brought forward: Jay Ippolito and seconded by Tom Burbank.

Treasurers Report: VBF 9,737.06
VIN 33,693.92

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report: (no vote taken)

VSO Report:

Keith mentioned the emails that he sends out for informational purposes

Ben suggested categorizing the email correspondence that comes through from Keith's office

Directed everyone to the Town of Hingham's website; noted the participants that have rolled off the Council due to expiration of terms; keeping Council at five members

Keith had written a letter to the Board of Selectmen stating that the Veterans Council will working with the five members

Jay Ippolito asked who the members were that had expiring terms

Keith responded with the names of Frank Curtis, Jack Rayburn, Scott McMillan and Joe Sweeney

Janine Suchecki resigned as she is now the Chair of Hingham Housing Authority; Hank Maude has passed away

Discussed the Veterans' Council by-laws. Asked if the Council had read the by-laws, reminded the members present that he has flags in every conference room and has suggested that the Town meetings start with the Pledge of Allegiance

By Laws:

The by-laws were reviewed and re-written by Town Council.

Article 1

Article 2

Article 3 Jay Ippolito mentioned his question on the five voting members

Article 4

Article 5 In order to run efficiently, officers need to be elected and meetings held monthly for 10 months out of the year
Keith discussed the meeting list for FY21 and asked that people be present or let him know of absence

Motion to approve the by-laws as written: Tom Burbank and seconded by Jay Ippolito

Keith has sent out booklets as to members responsibility on a Town Committee; as well as an excel spreadsheet with the list of what needs to be done over the course of the year

Keith discussed the Veteran of the Year Award and how the Council will now oversee the nomination process, and the Veterans Services Office will conclude the final result

Keith stated that the name of the award will be changed to the Haskell "Hank" Maude Service Above Self Veteran of the Year Award

David Sargent added that he'd like to read the tribute he wrote to Hank's family at the time of his passing

Keith spoke about the Veteran of the Year opportunities that have been missed; David spoke to the interviews that have been done by HCAM.

Slide into Home Base: MGH and the Red Sox run by Home Base program; offering a call in and video conference every week at 7:00 pm, drop in session for Veterans who need some camaraderie
Keith will share again to the group

David Sargent asked about the cancellation of the Battle of Grape Island and when it would be held; Keith stated it is cancelled for this year. Keith welcomed David home as he had been in the hospital for a short time

Jay wanted to thank Keith so that they were all prepared for the meeting. He wanted to review the Veterans Council members.

Ben asked about Secretary Urena's position. When Secretary Urena was first appointed he moved his Deputy Secretary's to the Soldier's Homes. Cheryl Poppe who was the Director in Chelsea, is now the interim Secretary of Veterans' Services. Keith mentioned that he wasn't sure if Colonel Poppe is going to be appointed officially

Keith reached out to her to accompany him to Nantucket for a funeral of a service member lost to suicide

Keith mentioned that Tuck Wadleigh reached out to him, feeling very disconnected, doesn't have enough face to face contact. Therefore, the Hingham Veterans' Services, color brochure went out to 8800 residents. Keith gave Paul Heanue of the Hingham Light Department a thank you for assisting our veteran residents

Keith mentioned that we would put the brochure on the website due to paperless billing; Tom mentioned that he is paperless

David Sargent suggested a letter directly from Keith is more appropriate

Tom asked about Town Hall opening; Keith explained the Town Hall hours (A and B weeks)

Tom asked also about the coffee hours; Keith responded as we don't usually have them in the summer anyway; the other Towns need to be ready as well

Keith said thank you and he was glad that the Zoom worked well for the group

Meeting Adjourned by the VSO; 7:08

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. (no vote taken)